

Case Study...

Service - Learning

By:
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Defining Service - Learning

The term “service – learning” means a method by which students learn and develop through active participation in:

- Organized service experiences that meet real community needs;
- Integrated into the students’ academic curriculum;
- Provides structured time called reflection for youth to think, talk, or write about what they did and saw during the service activity;

Definition Continued...


- Enables youth to utilize newly acquired skills and knowledge and apply them in real-life situations in their own communities; and
- Enhances what is taught in school by extending learning beyond the classroom and into the community and helps to foster the development of a sense of caring for others."

What is YOUR definition of Service – Learning?

Service – Learning means different things to different people. Because of this, no one definition of service – learning will satisfy everyone.

-source:

National and Community Service Act of 1990



There is a general agreement that service – learning occurs in two general categories :

- School-based Service – Learning
- Community-based Service – Learning

Source: Robert Shumer

School-based Service Learning...

- Schools are incorporating service – learning into their graduation requirements.
- High school Civics and Government classes are requiring service – learning as part of the class agenda.
- School-based organizations are utilizing service-learning as part of their leadership development.

Community-based Service – Learning...

- Groups, such as Scouts, require service – learning for rank advancement.
- Groups, such as 4-H, encourage service – learning for members to develop strong community-based leadership skills.
- Community organizations engage themselves in service – learning to develop stronger community structure.

Why Service – Learning is Important...

Whether the goal is academic, civic engagement or personal development, youth benefit greatly from their involvement in service learning projects.

-source:

National Center for Education Statistics, 1999



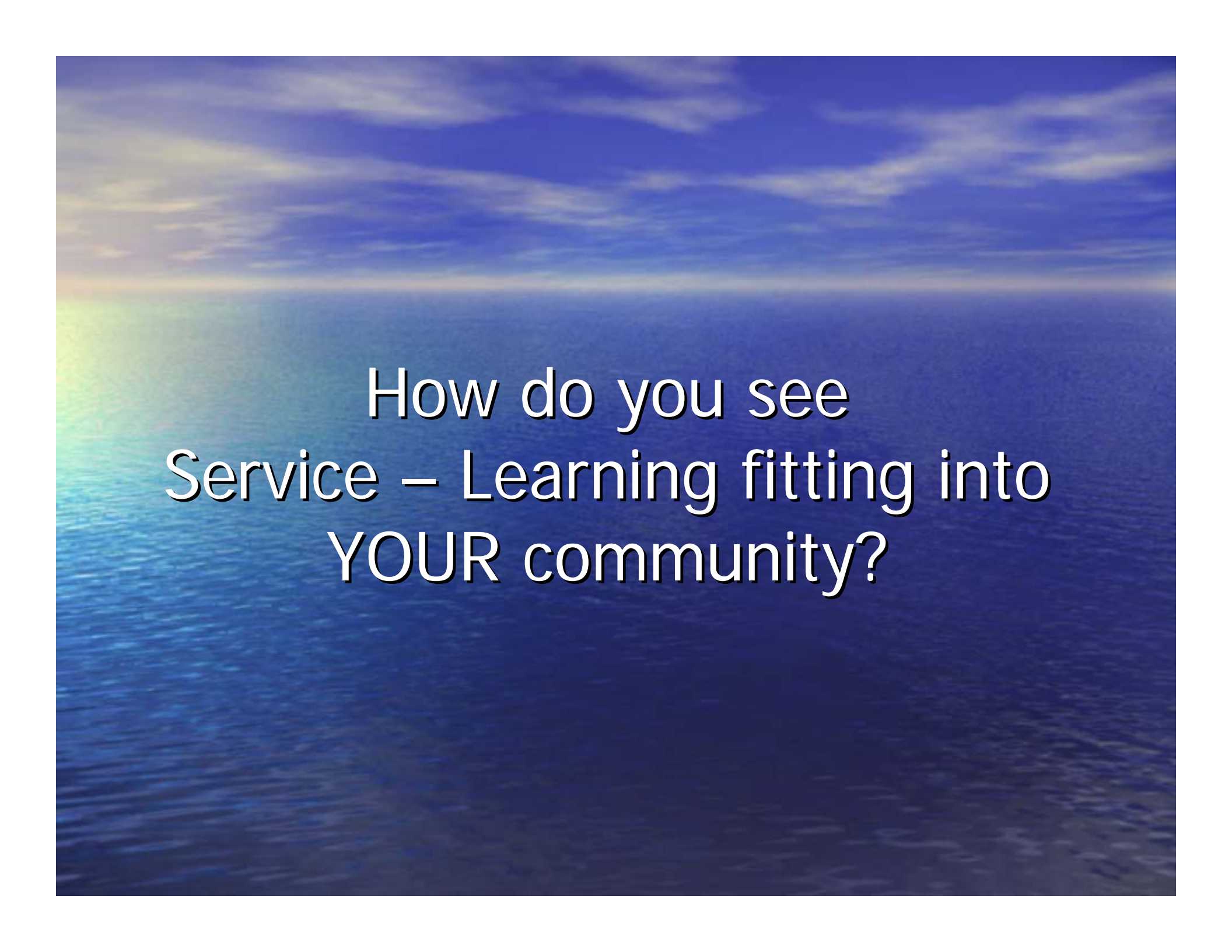
Personal Development...

Students who are engaged in service learning ranked responsibility as a more important value and reported a higher sense of responsibility to their school than comparison groups (Leming, 1998).



Civic Responsibility

High school students who participated in high quality service learning programs developed more sophisticated understanding of socio-historical contexts, were likely to think about politics and morality in society and were likely to consider how to effect social change. (Yates and Youniss, 1998)



How do you see
Service – Learning fitting into
YOUR community?

Examples of Service – Learning...

- In the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of the Golden Triangle in Columbus, Mississippi, high school student volunteers learn the value of service by working with children in need of direction. Matched up with needy youngsters, these high school students offer companionship, attitude development, self-esteem, relationship skills, recreational activities, school adjustment, male-female role models, and improvement in family function.

Just one more...

As part of "Project Motivation" at the YMCA of the University of Minnesota, students are paired with 4th and 6th graders in need of "big buddies." volunteers attend a retreat at the beginning of the program, and meet bi-weekly throughout the school year. They are assisted by school social workers who help them learn more about issues related to their work as volunteer and lead them in discussions of problems and successes they are having with their "little buddies."




For more ideas go to...

<http://www.servicelearning.org/>

Service – Learning is a growing trend among youth organizations. Some may claim that service – learning is a fad that is relatively small in number but big in hype. Numbers reveal another picture. Service – Learning is not a fad it is a movement that has participation rates as large as any other youth initiative in the country.

-source:

<http://www.servicelearning.org/article/archive/81/>



What are the Characteristics of Service-Learning?

According to the National Commission on Service – Learning. Service Learning Is...

- Links to academic content and standards.
- Involves young people in helping to determine and meet real, defined community needs.
- Is reciprocal in nature, benefiting both the community and the service providers by combining a service experience with a learning experience.



and...

- Can be used in any subject area so long as it is appropriate to the learning goal.
- Works at all ages, even among young children.

Service – Learning is not...

- An episodic volunteer program.
- An add-on to an existing school or college curriculum.
- Logging a set number of community service hours in order to graduate.
- Compensatory service assigned as a form of punishment of punishment by the courts or by school administrators.

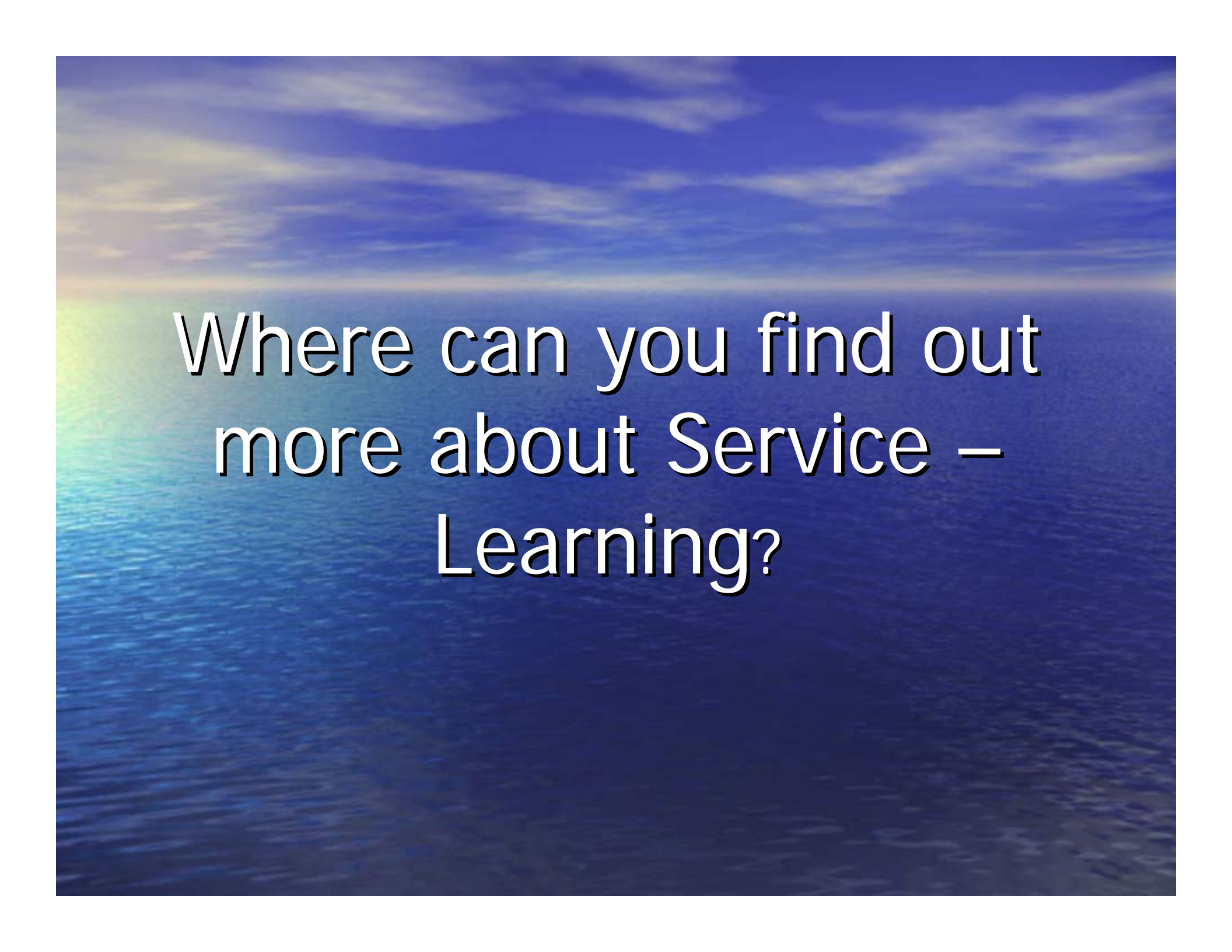


nor is it...

- Only for high school or college students.
- One-sided: benefiting only students or only the community.



How does Service –
Learning work for YOU as
a Youth Professional?



Where can you find out
more about Service –
Learning?

We found several great sites with information about service – learning. We have listed just a few...

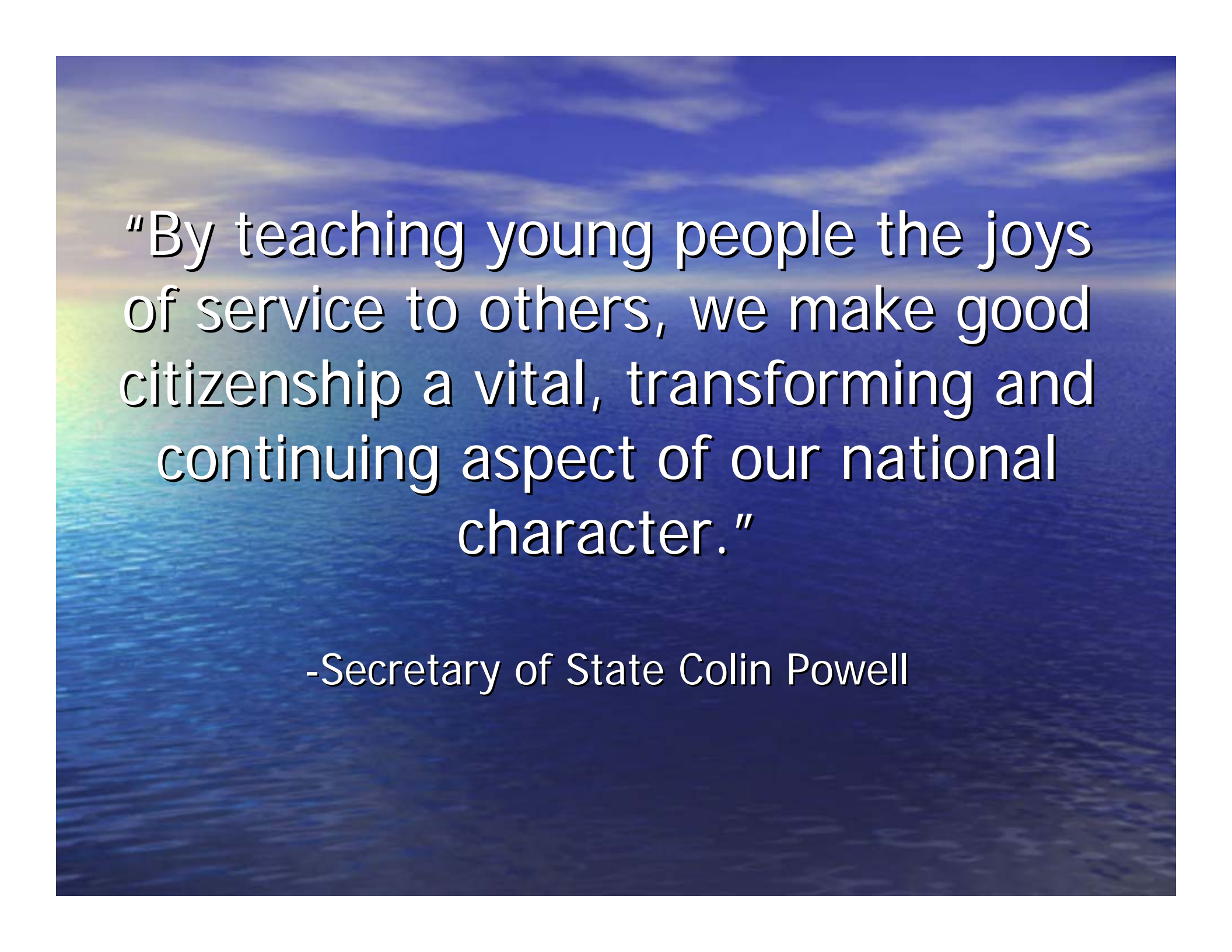
- <http://www.servicelearning.org>
- <http://www.civiced.org/index.php>
- <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/slc/>
- <http://learningindeed.org/index.html>
- <http://www.civiced.org/index.php>

There are also many grant opportunities available. Here are just a few...

- www.schoolgrants.org
- www.toshiba.com/about/taf/grant.html
- starterkit@dosomething.org
- www.hasbro.org/hcf/
- www.homedepot.com
- www.walmartfoundation.org

Resources...

- National Center for Education Statistics, 1999; Billig and Conrad, 1997; Duckenfield and Swanson, 1992; Eyler and Giles, 1998; Kinsley and McPherson, 1995
- National and Community Service Act of 1990 definition of service – learning from Rich Willits-Cairn and Jim Kielsmeier's Growing Hope, Minneapolis, MN: National Youth Leadership Council, p. 17, 1991
- Principles of Good Practice for Combining Service and Learning: A Wingspread Special Report
<http://www.servicelearning.org>
- Shumer, Robert. Executive Summary. Describing Service-Learning: A Delphi Study. Unpublished manuscript. University of Minnesota, July 1993



"By teaching young people the joys of service to others, we make good citizenship a vital, transforming and continuing aspect of our national character."

-Secretary of State Colin Powell